

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 06701 071553Z

51

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-02

USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-02 EUR-12 OMB-01 SCCT-01 PM-03

NSC-05 SS-15 /075 W

----- 076896

R 071512Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5020

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

UNCLAS CAIRO 6701

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR EG LY

SUBJECT: CAIRO PRESS ON LIBYA

1. CAIRO PRESS HAS DEVOTED CONSIDERABLE COVERAGE TO LIBYA OVER PAST SEVERAL DAYS. TOP STORY JULY 4 IN AKHBAR ANNOUNCED IN RED BANNER HEADLINES THAT GOE SECURITY HAD UNCOVERED LIBYAN INTELLIGENCE PLOT TO ANNEX EGYPT'S WESTERN DESERT. LARG INTELLIGENCE OFFICER ALI AL-HARUSI (ALLEGEDLY WANTED IN EGYPT FOR MURDER) SUPERVISING PROGRAM WHEREBY TRIBESMEN ARE TRAINED IN CAMP NEAR TOBRUK IN USE OF WEAPONS, BOMBS AND ANTI-TANK ARTILLERY.

2. HEADLINES TURNED JULY 5 IN ALL PAPERS TO LONDON DAILY MAIL REPORT ON ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT ON QADHAAFI AND RCC MEMBERS THAT REPORTEDLY TOOK PLACE JUNE 11 AT EVACUATION DAY CEREMONIES. ATTEMPT ALLEGEDLY OCCURRED WHEN AF PILOT FIRED ROCKET AT WHEELUS AFB REVIEWING STAND DURING MIRAGE FLY-BY. ROCKET LANDED IN TRIPOLI PORT INSTEAD, KILLING 11 AND SETTING TWO SHIPS ON FIRE. PRESS ADDS THAT PLOT HATCHED TWO DAYS AFTER ARREST OF 39 LIBYAN OFFICERS WHO HAD PROTESTED LARG ATTACKS ON EGYPT. IN FRONT PAGE COLUMN JULY 6 AKHBAR'S EDITOR IN CHIEF MUSA SABRI
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TELLS READERS THAT EGYPTAN PRESS KNEW OF ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT,

BUT CHOSE NOT TO PUBLISH REPORT BECAUSE "WE ARE NEVER HAPPY ABOUT ASSASSINATIONS". EVEN REPORT OF ROCKET INCIDENT, HE CLAIMS, PUBLISHED ONLY BELATEDLY BECAUSE EGYPTIANS "FEEL NO PLEASURE IN LOSSES OF LIBYAN PEOPLE". NEVERTHELESS , ON JULY 7 ALL PAPERS REPORT THAT TRIPOLI EXPERIENCED FOUR LARGE FIRES AND IN JUNE : AT GOVERNMENT OIL DEPOT NEAR FASHLUM, IN SPARE PARTS SHOP AT AL-NASR ST IN TRIPOLI, AT TRIPOLI PORT AND AT KADAH CONFECTIONARY WORKS.

3. EDITORS AND COLUMNISTS CONTINUE TAKE ALMOST DAILY SWIPES AT QADHAAFI'S INFANTILE ANTICS.
EILTS

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